

Palace Mystery-Spy Tale Likely to Be Year's Best

'Foreign Correspondent' Is Drama, Humor, Suspense, Action Combined As Only Hitchcock Can Combine Them

By JAY CARMODY.

Perhaps the best way to indicate the merit of "Foreign Correspondent" at the Palace, is to use Director Alfred Hitchcock's own trick of understatement. In such a case one has merely to say that it is tremendously exciting, taut with suspense, sprinkled with deft humor, and likely to be the best picture of 1940. Those who miss it should be sentenced to 50 merely Class A pictures.

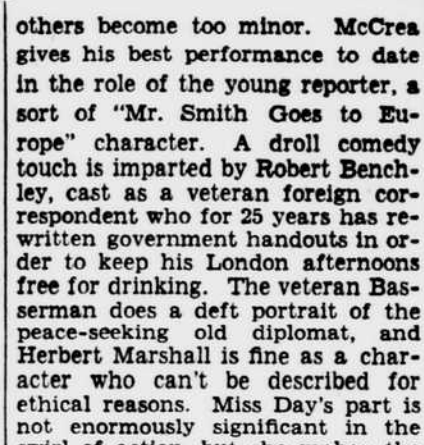
The man who directed "Rebecca" is back in his perfect milieu in this mystery melodrama, a yarn of the woe-filled wilderness that has blacked out civilization, but one which is told with a merrily humor that makes the average comedy seem morbid. Those who cooperate with Hitchcock in this two-hour demonstration of what movies can be, and so rarely are, include Joel McCrea, Laraine Day, Albert Bassett, and Robert Benchley and a number of others all chosen with the director's inimitable skill.

"Foreign Correspondent," a tall tale of intrigue in the highest places, is the picture which grew out of Walter Wanger's purchase of "Perils of the Girls" by Vincent Sheehan. It grew so far out of it, indeed, that there is no faint resemblance to the original, but the maddest Sheehan addict will be 100 per cent satisfied with the substitute. Hitchcock also knows a good story, and more tricks of telling it excitingly than any other director alive. Otherwise, why would the audience yesterday have let out that dramatic whoop of delight?

"Foreign Correspondent" is the story of an energetic, fearless, high-minded, not always bright young American reporter sent to Europe to find out when and where the world will burst into flames. Fate plants him in the middle of a dirty plot by a group of dastards to capture the peace-loving head of a small nation who blocks the road to war between two countries that could only be England and Germany, even if they are not named. The official is kidnapped, during a fake assassination, flown to England and held prisoner, while the spy ring tries to torture out of him an important treaty clause. Always the young reporter is hovering just on the threshold of solving the ring's dirty scheme, rescuing the elderly pacifist, getting his story, and perhaps preventing war.

An ordinary cops-and-robbers narrative it sounds, but wait—and not too long to see what Hitchcock does with it. When the plot begins to run thin, the situation to look artificial, the character to falter, he resorts to that suspense trick of his which creates a torment of excitement. There are a dozen such, one in an old Dutch mill in which the young reporter seems destined either to solve the plot in the first reel or get killed in the effort, but which ends up as only a minor exhibition of Hitchcock's skill in extricating himself from a thing like that. Finest of the pure suspense sequences is that in which for 10 minutes the audience is kept tortured with the fear the hero is going to be pushed from a cathedral tower by the spies' murder specialist. It leaves one about as limp as the corpse which finally lands at the foot of the tower.

The Hitchcock trick of topping every exquisitely built climax with an exquisite bit of understatement is used as effectively in "Foreign Correspondent" as it was in "The Lady Vanishes." The best of the lot are not quotable on the ground of spoiling some of the surprise to which Hitchcock resorts when he feels the strain should be abated for a few minutes by a hilarious laugh. A finely drawn lot of characters are the villains, heroes and the pretty heroine of "Foreign Correspondent," none so accented that the



Jay Carmody.

others become too minor. McCrea gives his best performance to date in the role of the young reporter, a sort of "Mr. Smith Goes to Europe" character. A droll comedy touch is imparted by Robert Benchley, cast as a veteran foreign correspondent who for 25 years has rewritten government handouts in order to keep his London afternoons free for drinking. The veteran Besserman does a deft portrait of the peace-seeking old diplomat, and Herbert Marshall is fine as a character who can't be described for ethical reasons. Miss Day's part is not enormously significant in the swirl of action, but she makes the most of her moments, by being comic or dramatic.

William Cameron Menzies, the "Gone With the Wind" man, provided the excellent frame in which Hitchcock sets his story and on which he uses his camera with such important effect. James Hilton is credited as the author of the script and a good job he did, but skilled as he and the others are, it is Hitchcock's picture.

There can be no higher praise than that!



ROMANCE INTERRUPTED—Constance Cummings is the young lady whose "Haunted Honeymoon" is married slightly by the discovery of a very dead body in the basement. The picture is at the Capitol now.



BOY MEETS "OTHER WOMAN"—Hedy Lamarr is the feminine menace, Clark Gable the chap whose life becomes more complicated because of her, in "Boys Meet Girls," at the Columbia for another week on F street.

Thoughts of Today Haunt 'Haunted Honeymoon'

Film at Capitol Was Made When British Had Time for Whimsy; Larry Adler on Stage

By HARRY MACARTHUR.

The "Haunted Honeymoon" on which Bob Montgomery and Constance Cummings are embarking this week at Loew's Capitol is haunted all right, but not by that corpse in the basement. Rather it is haunted by one's thoughts about life today in the comfortable, sprawling little English country village which is the film's locale, by your suspicions that this murder would hardly cause such furore among the villagers now.

"Haunted Honeymoon" is just one more victim of the mauler over England. In another day, or in a setting which does not arouse a pain in the heart, this would be a gay little mystery-comedy. Dorothy L. Sayers' novel, which has provided a tricky enough "whodunit" plot for any amateur sleuth, while the cast, and Director Arthur B. Woods has embellished the script with considerable of that British whimsy we used to find so welcome when the British had time for whimsy.

Mr. Montgomery and Miss Cummings are a detective and a mystery story writer, who vow to leave their careers behind when they start their honeymoon. This would work out, of course, for any one but a detective in a detective story. It is only a matter of time until Lord and Lady Wimsey find their way into the film, and their vocation is to solve the mystery of the corpse in the basement of their happy honeymoon cottage. And it is a matter of only slightly more time until their deductive instincts conquer their vain attempt to leave the whole matter up to the authorities.

The film was made in England by M-G-M before Mr. Montgomery learned about war from the front seat of an ambulance in Flanders, and he seems to have enjoyed its making. The lighthearted nonsense of "Haunted Honeymoon" is well suited to his talents, his role, while not one of those psychopathic killers he relishes, neither is one of those vapid things Hollywood used to hand him. It is just pleasant whimsy, which also is something Miss Cummings can handle deftly. Leslie Banks, one of Britain's better actors, is around, too.

The Capitol's stage show is just an ordinary vaudeville revue as far as its staging is concerned, but includes a variety of talents and there isn't a false note in it. The notes contributed by Larry Adler, far from being false, are, in fact, some of the finest notes you have heard. Mr. Adler, you know, is that virtuoso who has turned the harmonica into a versatile musical instrument, out of which he can conjure exciting melodies.

The other people about are the Three Swifts, Caryl Gould, Pearl Robbins and the Rhythm Rockets. The Swifts are those Indian club jugglers whose comedy doings seem never to grow stale no matter how often repeated. Miss Gould is a new singer with a pretty face and a pretty voice; Miss Robbins specializes in toe-tapping, somehow managing a staccato of rhythmic taps a lot of dancers couldn't achieve with toes and heels. The Rockets' most extensive effort

Charles Boyer Is Stymied By International Affairs

By SHEILAH GRAHAM.

Charles Boyer is just about the most miserable person in Hollywood. He would like to do something to help the French people—whether in France, or for French refugees in London. But if he helps the Vichy government, he gets in wrong with the De Gaulle government in London. Not to mention the British government in London. If he sides with the latter, the Vichy government is liable to confiscate his French property in which most of his earnings are tied up. For this reason he will not appear in "Mein" with Vivien Leigh.

The proceeds were to have gone to British and French charities in London. And now Charles doesn't know whether to stay in Hollywood, go back to London, or what. Vivien Leigh is undecided whether to accompany husband and Laurence Olivier when he returns to London after their present picture, "Lady Hamilton." If she stays in Hollywood, it will be

is a tricky cymbal dance in the East Indian manner, with definite indications of the influence of the recent Jack Cole Dancers.

Stage. National—"New Pins and Needles," up-to-date version of the Labor Stage revue: 8:40 p.m. Screen. Palace—"Foreign Correspondent," melodrama and adventure by Mr. Hitchcock: 10:45 a.m., 1:25, 4:10, 6:50 and 9:35 p.m.

Capitol—"Haunted Honeymoon," three on a honeymoon, one dead: 11 a.m., 1:45, 4:30, 7:15 and 9:55 p.m. Stage shows: 12:50, 3:35, 6:20 and 9:05 p.m. Earle—"Sporting Blood," romance among the horses set: 9:30, 11:55 a.m., 2:30, 5, 7:30 and 10 p.m. Stage shows with Rosalind Russell: 11:15 a.m., 1:20, 3:25, 5:30, 7:35 and 9:40 p.m. March of Time: 1:30, 5:10, 7:15 and 9:20 p.m. Columbia—"Boom Town," Gable, Tracy, Colbert and Lamarr strike oil: 11:30 a.m., 2:40, 7:05 and 9:35 p.m. Little—"The Lady Vanishes," Hitchcock at his best: 11:10 a.m., 1:45, 4:30, 6:15, 8 and 9:50 p.m. Trans-Lux—News and shorts; continuous from 10 a.m.

DANCING. PHIL HAYDEN FOR PROPER DANCE INSTRUCTION CATALOGUE UPON REQUEST Six Dupont Circle DU. 3431

AMUSEMENTS. Trans-Lux NEWS & SHORTS 80 AMERICA'S MILITARY MIGHT BUCKINGHAM PALACE AGAIN BATTLE OF LONDON BRITISH WAR OLD CALIFORNIA SCREEN SNAPS CARTOON

GAYETY NOEL CARTER

ONLY AT ARBAUGH'S 2606 Conn. Ave. Can You Get Real BAR-B-Q SPARERIBS And Aged Charcoal Broiled Steaks Mixed Drinks—Wines—Beer

SMART PLACES TO DINE & DANCE

CARLTON HOTEL, New Comes Room, 16th and K Sts. NE. 2636. Music by Ben Young and his M. C. A. Orch. Dancing 9:30 to 1:30. Min. \$1.00 after 10 p.m. except Sat. \$2.00 to \$3.00. 10 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. except Sat. \$2.00 to \$3.00.

LOTUS RESTAURANT, 14th and N. Y. Ave. 3 shows daily, 1:30 and 11:30, 2 o'clock. Billiard and the Continental. Dining, dancing and entertainment 7 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.

MAYNARD'S, Wants to See You! 1508 14th N.W. Hobart 9665. Cocktails, mixed drinks, 25c. We did not raise price of beer, 10c. Sea food, specialty. Shrimp served nightly. Regular meals. Entertainment, dancing, a full orchestra. Continental. Served from our raw bar on half shell.

JEN'S ITALIAN RESTAURANT, 1707 De Sales Bldg., opposite Mayflower Hotel. Specializing in ravioli and spaghetti. Phone BR 6106.

SHOREHAM BLUEROOM, Connecticut at Calverly. Dining and dancing. Two floor above 9:30 and 11:30. Dinner, dancing, and entertainment. Supper cover, 50c. AD. 0700.

RAY-ADAMS HOUSE—Overlooking White House at 16th and H Sts. Dining in an atmosphere of charm, dignity and elegance. Lunch, 12:30 to 2:30. Dinner, 7:30 to 11:30. Organ music nightly during dinner.

LOG TAYLOR INN, Richmond Hwy., 347 1/2 miles south of Washington. Dancing, night and day to rhythm of tempo. In the heart of the country. Phone 2444.

MADRILLON RESTAURANT, Washington Building, 16th and New York Ave. The favorite place to dine, the popular place to dance.

SEETRONOME ROOM, Wardsman Park Hotel, Conn. Ave. at Woodley Rd. Grant Thompson's Orchestra. Dancing 10 to 3, Sat. 9:30-1:30. Min. \$1.50. CO. 2000.

NEW TEN-WEEK TERM BEGINS OCT. 1st

GREET DRAMATIC ACADEMY 2017 S ST. N.W. AT CONN. AVE. Drama—Screen—Radio—Public Speaking Courses—\$30—\$40—\$50—\$75 Children's Classes—\$10—\$15—\$20 Tele. Dupont 1616

SEE THE IMPROVED SHERWOOD OIL BURNER BEFORE YOU BUY ONLY \$1.47 A WEEK

THE HIT LOEW'S NEW CAPITOL NOW ROBERT MONTGOMERY GOES ON A "HAUNTED HONEYMOON" WITH CONSTANCE CUMMINGS STAGE "FALL FROLIC" LARRY ADLER • 3 SWIFTS RHYTHM ROCKETS

PARADE OF SEASON! PALACE NOW ALFRED HITCHCOCK'S "FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT" WITH JOEL MCCREA LARAIN DAY-HERBERT MARSHALL GEORGE SANDERS ALBERT BASSERMAN ROBERT BENCHLEY Released thru United Artists

COLUMBIA TODAY 4th BOOMING F ST. WEEK Clark GABLE • Spencer Tracy Claudette Colbert • Hedy Lamarr In Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer's "BOOM TOWN" with FRANK MORGAN

Owing to the size of this attraction there will be a slight increase in prices: MATINEES... 50c Inc. Tax & Evening... 55c Inc. Tax SNOWAY... 55c Inc. Tax & CHILDREN... 25c All Times

CONTINUOUS SHOWS... DOORS OPEN 11 A.M.

Glenn Miller And His Orchestra featuring MARION HUTTON RAY EBERLE Plus BERRY BROTHERS ROY DAVIS SPECIAL LATE SHOW TOMORROW NIGHT Last Glenn Miller Stage Show at 11:30 p.m. No Advance in Prices

1000 Seats Nightly at 40c Plus Tax

STARTS TODAY REFRESHINGLY YOUTHFUL INCURABLY ROMANTIC! NO MATTER WHAT MAKES THE WORLD GO MAD... IT'S LOVE MAKES THE WORLD GO 'ROUND!

The LADY in QUESTION A Columbia Picture with BRIAN AHERNE RITA HAYWORTH

Metropolitan

AMUSEMENTS. NATIONAL TONIGHT AT 8:30 Next Mat. Tomorrow at 2:30 new Musical Pins & Needles

KEITH'S NOW 2nd WEEK! ROSALIND BRIAN RUSSELL • AHERNE VIRGINIA BRUCE HIRED WIFE ROBERT BENCHLEY JOHN CARROLL MARCH OF TIME Coming... DEANNA DURBIN SPRING PARADE

Alfred HITCHCOCK'S THE LADY VANISHES

AMUSEMENTS. TODAY'S FILMS

ACADEMY OF Perfect Sound Photoplay Lawrence Phillips Theatre Beautiful "THE MORTAL STORM" STARRING: ROBERT YOUNG, FRANK MORGAN, ANN BETHUNE, ANN SOTHERN, LEE BOWMAN, ANN SOTHERN, LEE BOWMAN, ANN SOTHERN, LEE BOWMAN

BEVERLY 15th & E. N.E. 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30. "THE GOLDEN FLEECE" A 50c

CALVERT 3234 W. Ave. N.W. 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30. "THE GOLDEN FLEECE" A 50c

CENTRAL 425 9th St. N.W. 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30. "THE GOLDEN FLEECE" A 50c

KENNEDY 425 9th St. N.W. 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30. "THE GOLDEN FLEECE" A 50c

PENN 3234 W. Ave. N.W. 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30. "THE GOLDEN FLEECE" A 50c

SHERIDAN 3234 W. Ave. N.W. 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30. "THE GOLDEN FLEECE" A 50c

SILVER 3234 W. Ave. N.W. 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30. "THE GOLDEN FLEECE" A 50c

TIVOLI 14th & Park Rd. N.W. 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30. "THE GOLDEN FLEECE" A 50c

UPDOWN 3234 W. Ave. N.W. 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30. "THE GOLDEN FLEECE" A 50c

APOLLO 624 H St. N.E. 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30. "THE GOLDEN FLEECE" A 50c

AVALLON 5612 Conn. Ave. N.W. 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30. "THE GOLDEN FLEECE" A 50c

COLONY 4835 Ga. Ave. N.W. 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30. "THE GOLDEN FLEECE" A 50c

HOME 1230 C St. N.E. 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30. "THE GOLDEN FLEECE" A 50c

SAVOY 3830 14th St. N.W. 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30. "THE GOLDEN FLEECE" A 50c

SECO 3234 W. Ave. N.W. 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30. "THE GOLDEN FLEECE" A 50c